



THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

The Woodlands, TX

NEWS RELEASE

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The Woodlands Township COVID-19 Update, Friday, May 22, 2020



[Watch a video](#) as Township Chairman Gordy Bunch discusses actions from the Board of Director's Thursday, May 21, 2020 meeting via videoconference. Chairman Bunch discusses in this video the Phase II approach of opening new amenities in The Woodlands and takes a look forward into the summer months.



Township Board of Directors Met Thursday via Videoconference

The Woodlands Township Board of Directors held a Special Budget Meeting via videoconference on Thursday, May 21, 2020. In the meeting, the Board received a report from the Budget Task Force regarding recommended changes to the 2020 Budget due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board also held a regular meeting at 6 p.m. to discuss the re-opening of certain Township parks and recreation facilities, pools and more based upon the guidelines provided by Governor Abbott for the re-opening of Texas. The Board also received recommendations for potential plans for the Township's annual Fourth of July event. For ongoing updates regarding re-openings in The Woodlands, please visit <https://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1495/Re-opening-of-The-Woodlands>.



Try A Water Bike at Riva Row Boat House

The Woodlands Township began offering water bikes as a new and exciting rental option at Riva Row Boat House on May 21, 2020. Water bikes are being added to the many rental options already available at Riva Row, including single and tandem (or double) kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and swan pedal boats. “We are happy to announce this new addition of water bikes to the Riva Row Boat House – especially now that we are entering Phase Two of the Governor’s orders of Opening Up Texas,” stated Township Chairman Gordy Bunch. “We look forward to our residents coming out and enjoying the outdoors in The Woodlands.”

These fun additions to The Woodlands Waterway are positioned in the lower level of The Waterway, and riders will be able to explore the area from Riva Row Park all the way out to the edge of Lake Woodlands, passing the Grogan’s Mill Bridge and East Shore, and discovering Mitchell Island on the way. [Read more](#) about water bikes at the Riva Row Boat House.



Community Gardens Open with Some Limitations

As part of the re-opening of amenities and recreation facilities in The Woodlands, community gardens have re-opened. Please note the limitations at each garden and also keep in mind best

practices when going out in public, such as social distancing a minimum of 6 feet from those who are not part of your household, washing your hands often and using hand sanitizer, avoiding touching your face and wearing a face covering if possible.

- Community Garden at Alden Bridge; with modified and enhanced access
- Community Garden at Bear Branch; with parking restrictions
- Community Garden at Wendtwoods Park (pictured)

For a list of open and closed facilities in The Woodlands Township, please visit <https://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1495/Re-opening-of-The-Woodlands>.

County News

COVID-19 Testing Sites

View Montgomery County Public Health's [May 19, 2020 press release](#) for more information on the following testing sites:

- Kroger has announced another testing site from May 31 through June 2, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 22296 Market Place Dr., New Caney, Texas 77357.
- Three COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites are now open in Montgomery County at select Walmart locations. The sites are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays weekly from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., weather permitting.

View Montgomery County Public Health's [May 18, 2020 press release](#) for more information on the testing voucher program.

Hotlines for health questions and COVID-19

Montgomery County: 936-523-5040

Harris County: 713-634-1110

Statewide Mental Health Support Line: 833-986-1919

Free Self-Screening Tool for COVID-19

Visit the self-screening tool on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

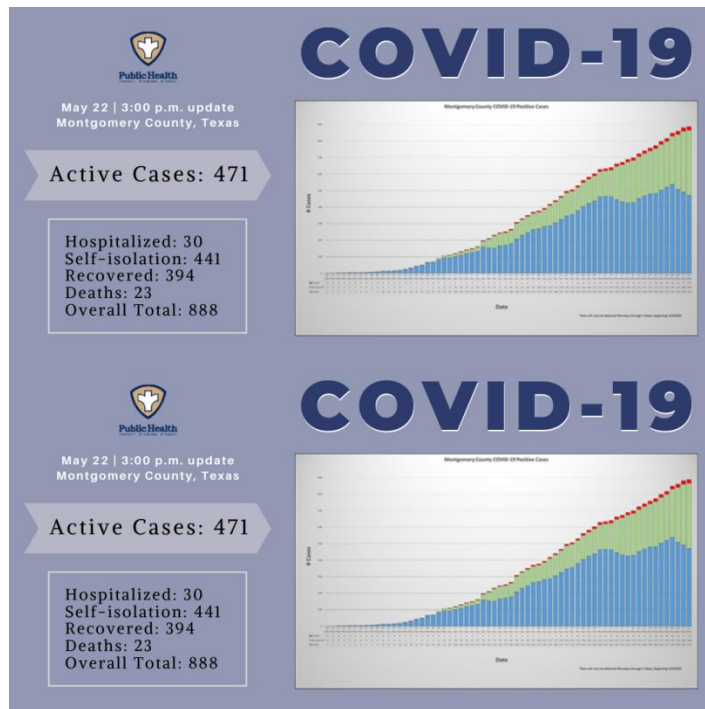
Montgomery County COVID-19 Case Count

Montgomery County Public Health District, in conjunction with Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is saddened to confirm the deaths of two residents related to COVID-19. A woman in her 70s, who was from Conroe, died in the hospital. Another woman, who was from Montgomery and also in her 70s, died while in hospice care. The number of ACTIVE cases of COVID-19 has decreased to 471 today. That number includes 30 hospitalizations. 394 people have fully recovered. The number of total positive cases has increased 7 since yesterday to 888.

Please view the case-by-case list via the MCPHD website here: <https://mcphd-tx.org/coronavirus-covid-19/confirmed-cases/>. Please refer to the Montgomery County Office

of Emergency Management dashboard here: <https://coronavirus-response-moco.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The next update from Montgomery County Public Health will be Tuesday, May 26, 2020.



Harris County COVID-19 Case Count

Harris County Public Health (HCPH) publishes their daily case count, combined with the City of Houston's daily case count, here: <https://tinyurl.com/tzymvk5>. Cases by zip code in Harris County can be found by clicking on areas of the map.

The Village of Creekside Park is located in two zip codes: 77375 and 77389 and these also include Magnolia, Augusta Pines/Auburn Lakes/West Rayford Road in northwest Harris County. Today, Harris County is reporting zip code 77375 has 77 cases and 77389 has 49 cases.

National News

Coronavirus Testing Basics

There are two different types of tests – diagnostic tests and antibody tests. A diagnostic test can show if you have an active coronavirus infection and should take steps to quarantine or isolate yourself from others. An antibody test looks for antibodies that are made by the immune system in response to a threat, such as a specific virus. [Learn more](#) about the different types of tests and the steps involved.

SOCIAL DISTANCING KEEPS US SAFER

As we navigate this difficult time, The Woodlands Township encourages residents to observe CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety.



When in doubt: Stay home as much as possible and limit your person-to-person interactions.

CDC Reaffirms Virus Spreads More Through Person-to-Person and Not Surfaces

According to the CDC, social distancing is still the most important method of avoiding the COVID-19 virus, and residents are urged to understand how the virus is thought to spread:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Read more information on the [spread of COVID-19](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Township News



#TownshipTogether

Send us your photos! The Woodlands Township is calling on residents to share images of inspiration within the community. These can be a photo of something seen in the neighborhood, a family project or anything with a positive message. These will be shared through the Township email updates, social media channels and on [The Woodlands Township website](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov). Send your photos to TownshipTogether@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

Thinking About a Home Improvement?

Applications for improvements are being reviewed and acted on by Township Covenant Administration staff. Applications can be mailed or submitted online. Please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covenants for additional information. Applications can be submitted online to: covad@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov



Did You Know?

Many of the Township parks and amenities are now open! This includes BMX parks, disc golf (pictured above), the archery range, dog parks and more. Proper social distancing, face coverings and hand-washing are still encouraged. The disc golf basket shown above looks lonely at Terramont Park, but you could be playing there!

Around the Township



Celebrate, Honor, Remember: Memorial Day 2020

Memorial Day pays tribute to all military service men and women who lost their lives while serving the United States. The Township gives thanks to all who have served and encourages everyone to celebrate safely. The traditional *Memorial Day in The Woodlands* event will not be held due to social distancing, limited number of gatherings and more due to COVID-19. Please remember that fireworks of any kind, including sparklers, are not permitted in The Woodlands.

Fourth of July Parade Cancelled

The Township has learned that the South County 4th of July Committee and Market Street have announced the cancellation of the 44th Annual 4th of July Parade, "***Stars & Stripes Forever***" due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the potential of over 20,000 spectators and 200 volunteers gathering along the parade route through Town Center and Market Street, holding the parade would not be in the best interest of health and safety for the community.

More information about cancelled, postponed or revised Fourth of July events will be publicized as soon as information is available.



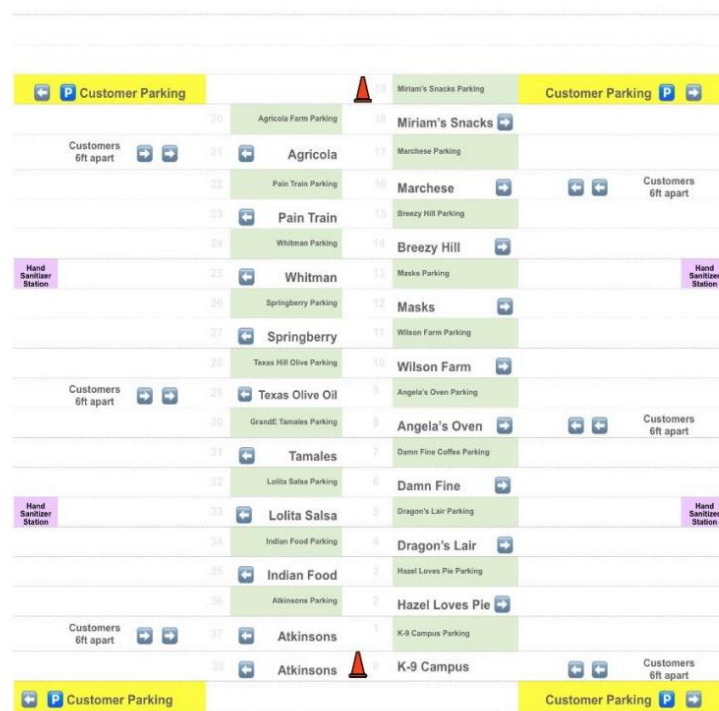
The Woodlands Farmer's Market Reopens Saturday Morning, 8 a.m. to noon

The Woodlands Farmer's Market is re-opening May 23, 2020, this weekend! Customers are encouraged to check the [website](#), [Facebook page](#) or newsletter for definite details including phases in which the market will open, participating vendors, and best practices for visitors.

The market will have a different layout in order to promote social distancing for customers and vendors. Instead of having two aisles with the vendors facing each other, the vendors will be in a rectangle with the customers walking on the outside. There will be hand sanitizer stands and markers to help customers.



5/23 TWFM Layout



In order to keep customers, vendors and volunteers safe, the Market Committee has closely examined best practices from farmer's markets and farmer's market associations from across the United States. Consequently, The Woodlands Farmer's Market will be implementing the following prudent best practices (which may be subject to change):

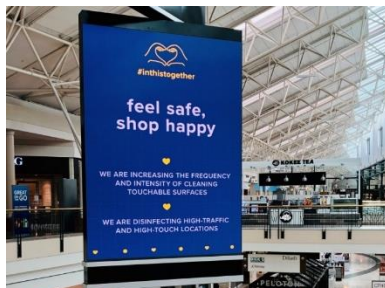
TO MINIMIZE RISK TO ALL AND SLOW THE SPREAD, PLEASE

- If you are feeling ill, do not enter
- Masks are required for all
- In and out quickly, no lingering
- Sanitize hands before entering market and before leaving the market
- Follow social distancing – 6 feet apart
- If you touch it, you buy it
- Preorder and pay online when possible
- Pay by card or exact change
- No pets or children
- Avoid groups or gathering of more than 2
- No food or drink at the market



Open Stores at Market Street

Several retailers at Market Street are currently open with more opening in the coming weeks. Market Street management notes that individual retailers may require a mask and additional safety requirements upon entry, so customers are encouraged to call ahead to verify hours and guidelines. Visit their [website](#) for the list of currently open stores, phone numbers and Market Street's safety guidelines as it relates to common areas.



Open Stores in The Woodlands Mall

The Woodlands Mall reopened on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Visit their website for the list of currently open stores, safety measures and curbside pickup options.



Open Hotels in The Woodlands

Many of The Woodlands hotel properties are open and ready to welcome you to their location. The Woodlands Resort re-opened on May 20, 2020 and will be open every day, including Memorial Day. Find all the details on the Resort's [website](#). [The Embassy Suites](#) is opening their doors on June 1, 2020. Below is a list of all open hotels in The Woodlands at this time. Be sure to stay up to date by viewing [Visit The Woodlands](#).

- [Best Western Plus](#)
- [Candlewood Suites](#)
- [Drury Inn The Woodlands](#)
- [Hilton Garden Inn](#)
- [Hyatt Place](#)
- [Residence Inn Lakefront Drive](#)
- [Residence Inn Market Street](#)

Community Resources

Numerous resources are available in the community for support. These vary from food banks to financial assistance and much more. Please visit the link below to find more information about resources in the community related to COVID-19: <http://thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/1491/Community-Resources>.

Red Cross Family Assistance

The American Red Cross has launched a **Virtual Family Assistance Center** (VFAC) to support families struggling with loss and grief due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Red Cross is here to provide compassion and support to families as they grieve.

To help, the Red Cross has set up a virtual team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care and health services volunteers who are:

- Connecting with families over the phone to offer condolences, support and access to resources that may be available
- Providing support for virtual memorial services for families, including connecting with local faith-based community partners
- Hosting online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills (Coping in Today's World and Psychological First Aid)
- Sharing information and referrals to state and local agencies as well as other community organizations including legal resources for estate, custody, immigration or other issues
- Front-line responders, such as healthcare workers, workers at long-term care facilities, and other essential personnel dealing with families of COVID-19 patients, are welcome to call as well.

All Family Assistance Center support will be provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Please visit www.redcross.org/vfac to access a support hub with special virtual programs, information, referrals and services to support families in need. The hub will also connect people to other community resources provided by partners. People without internet access can call **833-492-0094** for help.

Township's Coronavirus page

The Woodlands Township's special COVID-19 information page can be found at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/covid19. This page features Montgomery and Harris county Hubs, community resources and updated COVID-19 news from the Federal Government and the CDC. This page also includes the latest news from The Township, updates from partner agencies, social distancing strategies, important links, frequently asked questions, live Twitter feeds and more.

Stay Connected

Please stay connected to The Woodlands Township through our many communications channels. Learn more and sign up at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/stayinformed.

The Woodlands Township publishes this update to inform residents and businesses regarding the COVID-19 and its impact on The Woodlands Township. Please sign up for Township news and notifications at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/notifyme.